

2014 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Recommendations for Malawi

Each TIP Report narrative contains specific recommendations for a government to consider implementing over the coming year. In addition to the country-specific recommendations within the TIP Report narrative, the Department of State is providing your government with a short suggested action plan that is derived from these recommendations. Both the action plan and accompanying recommendations are aimed at providing countries with guidance related to the minimum standards outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; these standards are generally consistent with the standards set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the "Palermo Protocol").

Action Plan for the Government of Malawi

Below please find recommendations for specific goals and objectives to further the Government of Malawi's anti-trafficking efforts over the next year:

- 1) Enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation to define offenses, increase penalties for trafficking crimes, and coordinate anti-trafficking law enforcement and victim protection services;
- 2) Vigorously prosecute both sex and labor trafficking offenses;
- 3) Investigate and prosecute officials complicit in trafficking crimes, including corruption by immigration and police officers;
- 4) Expand training and increase funding for judges, prosecutors, labor inspectors, and police to identify, investigate, and prosecute trafficking offenses;
- 5) Improve and expand the collection of national prosecution and protection data;
- 6) Increase awareness and monitoring of human trafficking crimes, as well as efforts to identify traffickers and victims at border crossings and internal police checkpoints;

- 7) Develop formal structures to identify trafficking victims, especially among vulnerable populations, and to refer them to available services;
- 8) Increase the availability of shelters and protection services for victims, including through financial or material support to NGOs for expansion of direct service provision;
- 9) Sentence convicted traffickers to sufficiently stringent punishments, including the increased imposition of prison sentences rather than fines or suspended sentences;
- 10) Adopt a national strategy to combat trafficking that focuses on improving national-level coordination of anti-trafficking efforts across all districts;
- 11) Launch anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns; and
- 12) If not already doing so, adopt measures to ensure that nationals who are deployed abroad as diplomats do not engage in domestic servitude or other forms of trafficking in persons. These measures could include training, issuance of guidance, awareness raising, or regulations aimed at ensuring that diplomats are not engaged in human trafficking.